

CHARLESTON

Admiral Dahlgren and General
Gillmore in the City.

The City and All Its Defences
Evacuated by the Rebels.

Its Occupation by the Union
Forces.

TWO HUNDRED CANNON CAPTURED.

Six Thousand Bales of Cotton
Destroyed by the Rebels.

The Upper Part of Charleston
on Fire.

Terrible Explosion at the Charleston
and Wilmington Depot.

Several Hundred Citizens
Killed.

THE CAPTURE OF A BLOCKADE RUNNER.

A National Salute Ordered by
the Secretary of War,
&c., &c., &c.

The steamship Fulton, Captain Wotton, from
Fort Royal and Charleston bar, 18th inst., at six
P. M., arrived at this port yesterday morning.
We are indebted to Purser Thomas McManus for
interesting details.

Charleston was evacuated by the enemy on the
night of the 17th, leaving the several fortifications
uninjured, besides two hundred guns, which they
spiked.

The evacuation was first discovered at Fort
Moultrie in the morning at ten o'clock. Part of
the troops stationed at James Island crossed over
in boats and took possession of the city without
opposition.

Before evacuating the rebels fired the upper
part of the city, by which six thousand bales
of cotton were burned, and it is supposed that
before the fire could be subdued two-thirds of the
city would be destroyed.

There was a fearful explosion in the Wilmington
depot by which several hundred citizens lost their
lives. The building was used for commissary pur-
poses, and was situated in the upper part of the
city. See map.

Admiral Dahlgren was the first to run up to the
city, where he arrived at about two o'clock P. M.
Gen. Q. A. Gillmore followed soon after in the
steamer W. W. Coit, and had an interview with
Gen. Schemmelmann, he being the first general
officer in the city and for the present in command.

It supposed that Beauregard evacuated Char-
leston in order to concentrate and give Sherman
battle.

The remains of two iron-clads were found, which
the enemy destroyed by blowing them up previous
to the evacuation.

The first flag over Fort Sumter was raised by
Captain Henry M. Bragg, aid-de-camp on General
Gillmore's staff, having for a flagstaff an oar and
a boat hook lashed together.

The houses in the lower part of the city were
completely riddled by our shot and shell. The
wealthy part of the population have deserted the
city, and now all who remain are the poorer
classes, who are suffering for the want of food.

A movement had been made by the force under
Gen. Hatch, which resulted in the capture of six
pieces of artillery which the rebels had aban-
doned. The carriages were destroyed.

THE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Secretary Stanton to Major General Dix,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 21-2 P. M.

Major General JOHN A. DIX, New York:—

This department has received the official report of
Major General Gillmore announcing the surrender of the
city of Charleston, South Carolina, to the United States
forces under his command, at nine o'clock Saturday
morning, the 18th inst. Among the captured property
are two hundred pieces of cannon and a supply of fine
ammunition. The enemy burned their cotton, ware-
houses, arsenals, quartermaster's stores, railroad bridges,
two iron-clads and some vessels in the shipyards.

EDWIN M. STANTON.

Major General Gillmore to Major General
Halleck.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 18, 1865.

GENERAL—The city of Charleston and all its defences
came into our possession this morning, with about two
hundred pieces of good artillery and a supply of fine
ammunition.

The enemy commenced evacuating all the works last
night, and Major Macbeth surrendered the city to the
troops of Gen. Schemmelmann at nine o'clock this
morning, at which time it was occupied by our forces.

Our advance on the Edisto from Bull's Bay hastened
the retreat.

The cotton warehouses, arsenals, quartermaster's stores,
railroad bridges and two iron-clads were burned by the
enemy. Some vessels in the shipyards were also burned.
Nearly all the inhabitants remaining behind belong to the
poorer class. Very respectfully,
Q. A. GILLMORE, General Commanding.

National Salute in Honor of the Event.

SECRETARY STANTON TO GENERAL DIX.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 21-2 P. M.

Major General JOHN A. DIX, New York:—

The following order has just been issued. You will see
that it is executed in your department.

E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Order, that a national salute be fired to-morrow noon,
February 22, at West Point, and at every fort, arsenal
and army headquarters of the United States, in honor of
the restoration of the flag of the Union upon Fort
Sumter.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

Illumination of the State Department.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1865.

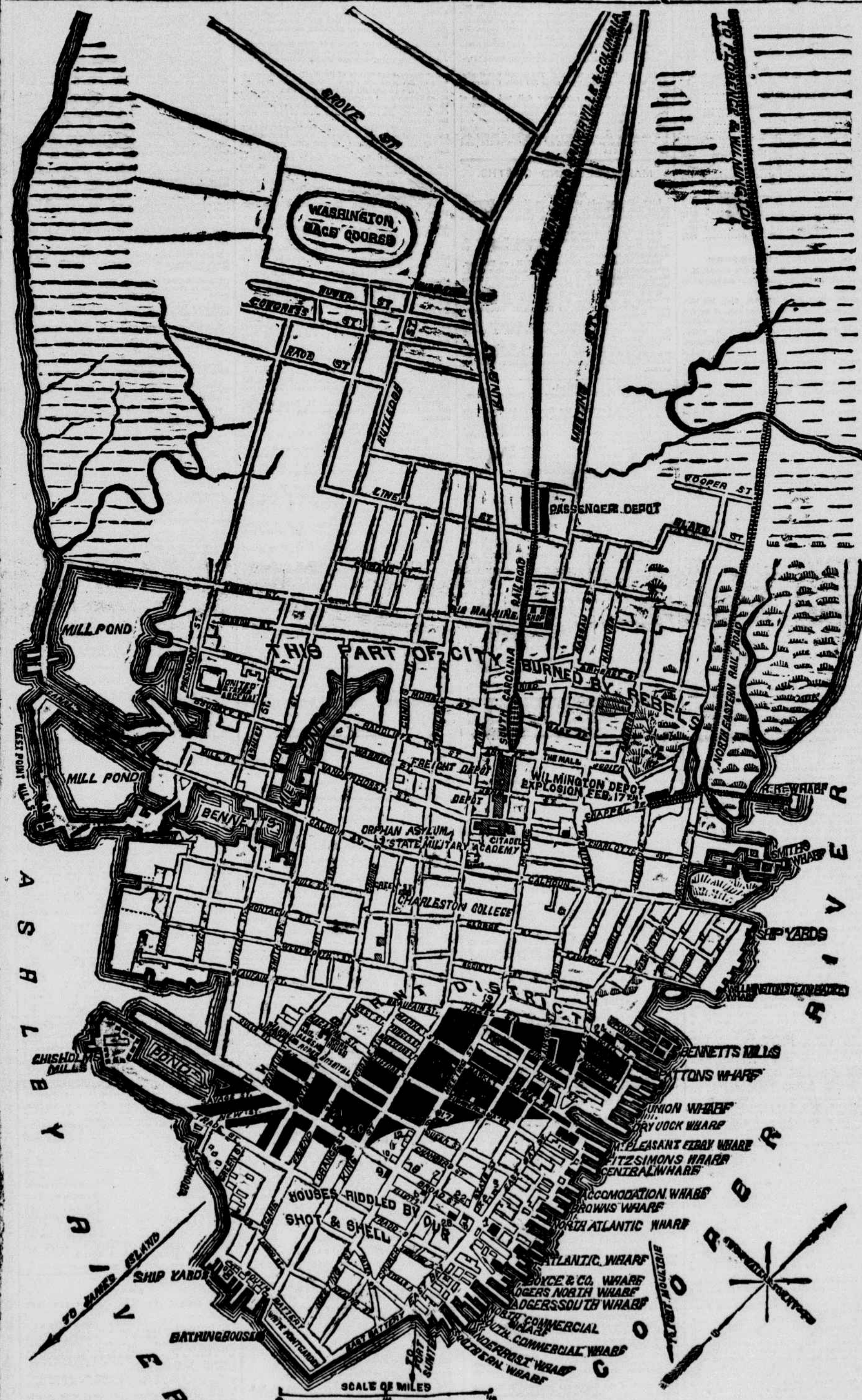
The following official notice has been promulgated:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Feb. 21, 1865.

The department building will be illuminated on the

OUR FLAG OVER CHARLESTON.

Occupation of the City by the Forces of Major General Gillmore and Admiral Dahlgren.



NOTES OF REFERENCE.

- 1—Custom House and Post Office.
- 2—Courthouse.
- 3—City Hall and Mayor's Office.
- 4—Union Bank.
- 5—Mercantile Office.
- 6—Court House.

- 7—Telegraph Office.
- 8—Bank of the State of South Carolina.
- 9—City Hall and Mayor's Office.
- 10—Grand House (Police Headquarters).
- 11—Hibernian Hall.
- 12—Mills House.
- 13—Governor's Headquarters.
- 14—Adams Express Office.
- 15—Theatre.

- 16—Seamen's Hall.
- 17—The Market or Circular Church.
- 18—Charleston Hotel.
- 19—Parillon Hotel.

- 20—St. Andrew's Hall.
- 21—Cathedral.
- 22—Bank of Charleston.
- 23—Railroad Bank.

night of Washington's birthday in honor of the recent
triumph of the Union.

By order of the President.

WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

THE HERALD REPORTS.

Mr. S. C. Mason's Despatch.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., Feb. 11, 1865.

Major General J. G. Foster, commanding the depart-
ment, has been temporarily relieved from duty here to
go North. His departure is occasioned by the necessity
for an important surgical operation upon a wound re-
ceived by him in Mexico, the condition of which has
recently become very aggravated. He will proceed at
once to Baltimore, his former residence, where, as soon
as he sufficiently recovers from the fatigues of the trip,
the operation will be performed.

General Foster leaves the department with the best
wishes of every class—soldiers, officers, citizens and
the colored people. During the summer, when his
whole force was scarcely adequate to the garrisoning of
the forts along the immense line of coast in his depart-
ment, he managed to collect some five thousand troops
for an expedition, and to keep the whole rebel front
stayed up for some weeks, changing his base so often
and maneuvering so well as to make the expedition most
successful in direct results and co-operation with other
movements. When Sherman's approach was expected
General Foster required the civilians at various posts to
guard their own property, and then made a diversion by
a bold attack on the railroad at Grahamville and De-
vau's Neck with nearly the whole of his small force at
the department. When General Sherman arrived at the
Ogeechee General Foster promptly assumed every co-

operation in his power in opening communications, and
was very highly complimented for his energy and zeal.
With a laurel wreath which would have long ago amounted
to disability with many, he has been one of the most active
commanders the department ever had, and has neglected
no business, however trifling, and so opportunity to
effectually smother the enemy, however difficult. I have
said this much because I believe it to be well merited,
and because in my accounts of his operations I have
heretofore strictly complied with a request from the
General to abstain from all allusions to him except such
as were absolutely necessary, and then to avoid all flattery
and the complimentary expressions so customary in
war correspondence. Under present circumstances I believe
the liberty I have taken is perfectly justified.

When General Foster went on board the A. W. C., on
which he is to proceed to Baltimore, a parade of the

troops occurred, under the direction of Brigadier General
M. R. Lillie, commanding the district. As the
General passed down the line on the dock the troops
manifested the greatest regret at his departure. A salute
was fired from Fort Moultrie, and the citizens made every
demonstration of respect.

General Foster was accompanied by his lady and
daughter, by Assistant Surgeon Buchanan, and by Major
Strong, Aid-de-Camp.

a host of friends and admirers here, where he was no
popular during his command of the department in
1864.

Trade has been more lively at Hilton Head of late than
at Savannah. All the merchants are doing a good busi-
ness, and Savannah is largely supplied from here on
military permits. Some new buildings are going up, and
even every shanty is occupied, with a demand for more
room.

Captain W. L. M. Burger remains here as Adjutant Gen-
eral of the department, a position he has long and ably
filled.

Lieut. Colonel Stewart L. Woodford, of the One Hun-
dred and Twenty-seventh New York Volunteers, has been
Provost Marshal General of the department since the de-
parture of Lieut. Colonel J. F. Hall. Colonel Woodford
has been on staff duty, in various capacities, for a long
time, except during the active operations of November
and December, when, at his own request, he was tempo-
rarily relieved, to join his regiment in the field. In the
hot engagements at Honey Hill and Devau's Neck he
behaved with conspicuous merit, and commanded the
regiment after its commander, Colonel Gurney, was se-
verely wounded. He was formerly assistant United
States district attorney in New York city.

Captain Gouraud, of General Foster's staff, remains
here for the present as Inspector General of the depart-
ment.

Major Anderson, Aid-de-Camp, now absent at the North
will doubtless join General Foster.

Mr. Oscar G. Sawyer's Despatches.

HILTON HEAD, Feb. 18, 1865.

GENERAL GILLMORE'S OPERATIONS.

There has been considerable activity manifested in the
department during the past few days. The three columns
of Generals Potter, Hatch and Schemmelmann have been
moving forward and operating with considerable success,
viewing them with a regard to future operations.

GENERAL HATCH CROSSES THE COMBAHEE.

From General Hatch's column we have some gratifying
news. It is reported that he crossed the Combahee and
carried a battery of six guns, covering one of the cross-
ings of the river, after a very handsome affair of an hour's
duration, in which our loss was light. He then
moved forward, crossing the country between the
Combahee, meeting but little resistance, and trans-
ferred his forces across the Ashpoco and is now mov-
ing on towards the South Edisto. There was no very
serious resistance to the advance of our forces in this
region of country lying south of the Edisto, because it is
accessible to the approach of gunboats, and was only de-
fended by small batteries on the river banks, which were
flanked and rendered untenable by the movement of a
column in their rear. As their garrisons were small they
were necessarily compelled to relinquish their hold at
those points and fall back on to Charleston. So our ad-
vance has not been contested with any great vigor ex-
cept at the fords of the rivers, and then with so small a
force that they were easily driven away.

General Hatch will doubtless continue his onward
march until he reaches a base that will not only aid him
but serve General Sherman.

THE EVACUATION OF CHARLESTON.

It has been rumored, and with a considerable show of
probability, that Charleston is being evacuated, in con-
sequence of Sherman's movements, which made such a
step imperative if its garrison was to be saved to the
sinking confederacy. All the roads centering in Char-
leston—the arteries through which its life blood circu-
lated—have been severed by Sherman, and the city and
garrison totally and wholly cut off from all support either
in material or men. It is a mere question of time how
long the city can hold out under these circumstances.
It may have a strong, brave garrison, and be well sup-
plied with provisions for a considerable period; but its fall
is as certain as the coming of the day. And the best
military judges predict, as common sense would sug-
gest, a complete evacuation of the city by the rebels to
preference to a siege and final surrender of its defenders.
Our forces are now so disposed that such a movement
cannot take place without information soon reaching us
in regard to it, and a corresponding change take place in
our operations to meet the contingency. The rumors
already received of the evacuation of Charleston are
doubtless premature. But that they will soon reach us
in a reliable form no one who knows the situation of
affairs can doubt.

General Potter's column, at Bull's Bay, remains in a
state of quietude, threatening Charleston from the north,
as well as the line of railroad from Charleston north.
Though quiet, General Potter's command is performing
good service at Bull's Bay. Nothing of a startling nature
has reached us of the operations of General Schemmel-
mann at Edisto. He is quiet, but doing important ser-
vice in his part of the grand campaign. From General
Sherman we have gratifying news, most of which I have
already sent you. The report that Branchville had
been evacuated is correct, and Sherman's cavalry
and infantry are engaged in effectually destroy-
ing the railroads centering at that important
point. His cavalry, under Kilpatrick, are operating
between that point and Augusta, tearing up
tracks, burning depots, barns, &c., and gathering
forage and subsistence, which have thus far been found
in abundance. The troops are in excellent spirits and as
fresh as ever. The two wings of the army are moving on
different lines, although within supporting distance of each
other. The casualties thus far experienced in the cam-
paign have been comparatively light. In the operations
resulting in the evacuation and occupation of Branch-
ville our casualties were a trifling over four hundred. Some
rebel prisoners were captured, but most of the supplies
and rolling stock of the railroad had been removed in
anticipation of this very result. Nothing very definite is
likely to be heard from Sherman for a week or ten days
to come, as the reports reach us through rebel deserters
and scouts, who give us no details.

GENERAL GILLMORE AT STONE ISLAND.

General Gillmore proceeded to Stone Island this morn-
ing to take a look at the field. He is as active and en-
ergetic as ever. Here one day, and no one knows where
the next, keeping his eye on every piece on the board.
His return to active service in the field is welcomed by
all who served under him in the Department of the
South.

Considerable activity is manifested in the squadron;
but what will be accomplished none can tell. It is not
likely a chance will be afforded to the squadron to emu-
late the actions of Porter's and Farragut's brilliant
organizations.

LOYALTY AT SAVANNAH.

There is no news at Savannah. Affairs are quiet there,
and likely to remain so. The loyal feeling, develops
itself so slowly that it cannot be detected.

Mayor Arnold, Dr. Willis and Mr. Henry Brigham—
three of the most eminent citizens of Savannah—leave in a
few days for Washington, to present a statement of
the situation of affairs to the President, and to lay before
him some suggestions. They are loyal men, and deserve
attention and respect.

The detective police have arrested a man by the name
of Wright, a notorious desperado, charged with the crime
of setting fire to the building that started the great fire at
Savannah, a few weeks since, and resulted in the loss of
life and an immense deal of property. The proof is strong
against him, and it is likely he will get his just deserts
from the military commission about to try him. The
police are now after a desperate gang, of whom he was
chief, and it is more than likely they will succeed in their
efforts. All are violent rebels.

Lieutenant Colonel York, Provost Marshal, is display-
ing a great deal of tact and talent, and a sleepless energy
and vigilance in conducting his important office.
Major John F. Anderson, senior aid on General Fos-
ter's staff, who leaves the Fulton to-day, was accom-
panied by an evanescence by a large crowd on the wharf and
by the post band, under Professor Ingalls. Major Ander-
son bears with him the best wishes of all in the depart-
ment who have known him. He has always maintained
an enviable reputation as a genial gentleman, an
accomplished officer and an agreeable companion. We
shall miss his pleasant presence in the society of Hilton
Head greatly.

THE VERY LATELY.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 18, 1865.

I have only time to tell you briefly that we are in the
city. Charleston and all its defences were evacuated on the
night of the 17th by the enemy, who left the forts all
unmanned save spiking the guns, of which about two
hundred fell into our hands.

The evacuation was first discovered at Fort Moultrie

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